

Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace the paragraphs at page 2, line 14, to page 5, line 11, with the following amended paragraphs:

To achieve the above object of the present invention, a control method for a trunking system is provided according to ~~a first aspect of~~ the present invention, the trunking system performing exchange between a wireless unit and the other communication party by means of control signal communication with the wireless unit by use of a control channel, and thereby allowing communication signal communication using a selected telephone communication channel between the wireless unit and the other communication party. In the control method, there are performed: when all the telephone communication channels are busy when a new request for the telephone communication channel comes from the wireless unit, performing a telephone communication channel making processing for using the control channel as a telephone communication channel; ~~[[and]]~~ when any of the busy telephone communication channels is released when the control channel is used as a telephone communication channel, performing a control channel shifting processing for setting the released telephone communication channel as a new control channel, and by using all channels, notifying a plurality of the wireless units that the released telephone communication channel currently acts as a new control channel, and when the control channel originally set is used as a telephone communication channel, inserting information indicating a usage state of the telephone communication channel being used as the new control channel and a usage state of neighboring channels in an overlapped manner into information transmitted via the downlink communication of the control channel originally set so as to notify a wireless unit currently making a telephone call using the control channel originally set of these usage states, to perform a control channel usage state notifying processing.

~~To achieve the above object, a control method for a trunking system is provided according to a second aspect of the present invention, the trunking system performing exchange between a wireless unit and the other communication party by means of control signal communication with the wireless unit by use of a control channel, and thereby allowing communication signal communication using a selected telephone communication channel between the wireless unit and the other communication party. In the control method, there are performed: when all the telephone communication channels are busy when a new request for the telephone communication channel comes from the wireless unit, a telephone communication channel making processing for using the control channel as a telephone communication channel; and when any of the busy telephone communication channels is released when the control channel is used as a telephone communication channel, a control channel shifting processing for causing communication performing transmission/reception to/from the wireless unit by use of the control channel to be shifted to the released telephone communication channel, and releasing the control channel so as to be able to be used for transmission and reception of the control signal.~~

~~In the trunking system control method according to the first and second aspects of the present invention, when the control channel is used as a telephone communication channel, a control channel usage state notifying processing is preferably performed which incorporates into a telephone communication signal transmitted/received by use of the control channel, information indicating the availability of the telephone communication channel currently used as the control channel, and performs transmission.~~

In the trunking system control method according to the first aspect of the present invention, when all telephone communication channels are busy, the control channel is used as a telephone communication channel. Then when an idle telephone communication channel emerges, the telephone communication channel is used as a control channel. Accordingly, the time period for which there exists no control channel

for transmitting/receiving a control signal is shortened, and wireless unit current consumption is reduced and at the same time, the time period for which the trunk operation cannot be performed can be reduced.

[[In]] Furthermore, in the trunking system control method according to the ~~second aspect of the~~ present invention, when all telephone communication channels are busy, the control channel is used as a telephone communication channel. Then when an idle telephone communication channel emerges, a communication signal which has been communicated by use of the control channel is transmitted/received by use of the idle telephone communication channel. Accordingly, the time period for which there exists no control channel for transmitting/receiving a control signal is shortened, and wireless unit current consumption is reduced and at the same time, the time period for which the trunk operation cannot be performed can be reduced.

Please replace the paragraphs at page 8, line 19, to page 9, line 18, with the following amended paragraphs:

When telephone communication signals are transmitted/received by using channel f1 as a telephone communication channel, when communication using channel fn of the wireless relay 20-n is completed, this is detected by the trunk control apparatuses 10-1 to 10-n, and channel fn will be used as a control channel. More specifically, information such that channel fn will be used as a control channel from now on, is notified to the wireless units 31 to 37 by use of all channels f1 to fn. The wireless units 31 to 37 hold this information, and use channel fn as a control channel instead of channel f1 until subsequent information is supplied. Accordingly, starting just after ~~channel fn~~ any one of channels f1 to f(n-1) is released, the trunk operation based on a control signal becomes possible.

When channel f1 which has been used as a control channel until then, is used as a telephone communication channel, the trunk control apparatus 20-1 inserts in an

overlapped manner into information transmitted via the downlink communication of channel f1, information indicating the usage state of channel fn acting as a control channel and the usage state of neighboring channels, and thereby notifies the information to the wireless unit currently making a telephone call or a scanning operation. When such usage state notifying processing is performed, the wireless unit which has been using channel f1 can perform quick switching to another channel. An outline of the usage state notifying processing will be described with reference to Figures 2 to 4.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 13, line 4, with the following amended paragraph:

As described above, according to the present embodiment, when channel fn is released, communication which has been using channel f1 as a telephone communication channel is shifted to channel fn, and channel f1 is again restored to a control channel. Accordingly, when channel fn is released, there exists again a control channel, whereby a state in which there exists no control channel is prevented from continuing long. Therefore, wasted current consumption in the wireless units 31 to 37 can be reduced and at the same time the time period for which the trunk operation cannot be performed can be shortened.